



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MAINTENANCE DREDGING  
TAMPA HARBOR  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the Environmental Assessment attached hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

a. There will be no significant adverse impacts to endangered or threatened species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion to protect nesting sea turtles along the shoreline. Measures to be implemented include a monitoring and relocation program during the nesting season. Since the first placement event sea turtle nesting has increased along the shoreline. They stated also that dredging would not affect manatees. The National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Gulf Regional Biological Opinion for the use of hopper dredges and its impact on sea turtles. Measures used to mitigate impacts include a discretionary dredging window, observers, inflow screens and a deflector draghead.

b. The Jacksonville District has determined that maintenance dredging will have no effect on significant historic properties at Egmont Key. The placement of material along the western shoreline would retard erosion and protect the historic McIntosh Battery from degradation. The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this determination.

c. State water quality standards will be met.

d. The proposed project has been determined to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program.

e. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented during project construction.

f. The proposed project has been evaluated pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Migratory Bird Protection Policy will be implemented for this project and for future projects. The Policy has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

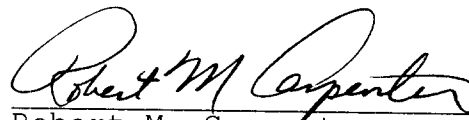
Service and the State of Florida.

g. Benefits to the public will be maintenance of the navigation channel, continued local economic stimulus, and shoreline protection for historical properties.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement.

7 FEB 05

Date

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert M. Carpenter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert M. Carpenter  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer